



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **FORMER PALO ALTO EXECUTIVE SENTENCED TO 37 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SAN JOSE — A Japanese national and former executive for a Silicon Valley company has been sentenced to 37 months in prison and three years of supervised release on a possession of child pornography charge.

Hidemi Fuse, 46, was sentenced September 21 by U.S. District Court Judge Jeremy Fogel in San Jose. Fuse pleaded guilty in May to a one count information charging him with possession of child pornography as part of a year-long investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The investigation into Fuse stemmed from an international child pornography probe into a Belarus-based Internet billing company called Regpay. Regpay provided credit card billing services for some 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operated child porn websites on its own. A lead arising out of that investigation led to a search of Fuse's Mountain View home in December 2003. At the residence, agents found approximately 500 pornographic images of children and more than 40 movies featuring child pornography. The following day Fuse returned to Japan. He was arrested when he attempted to return the United States for a conference in November 2004. Upon completion of his sentence, Fuse also faces deportation.

"Those who engage in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them," said Charles DeMore, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in the Bay Area. "ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this horrific behavior both here and abroad."

The Regpay investigation is part of a broader ICE initiative known as Operation Predator, an enforcement effort to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,200 individuals nationwide, including more than 1,600 in California.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.